

THE

HISTORIAN

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

July 2013

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2013, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. Guest speakers for the program will be immediate past president, Lana Noonan, and member, Nanette Murphree of the Bay-Waveland Garden Club. *Reservations are required* and may be made by calling 467-4090. Please call *by noon on Wednesday, July 17, 2013*, to make your reservation, to help us plan seating which is limited to forty-eight people, and to apprise us of the number for whom to prepare. The price of the lunch is \$10.00.



Current home of the Bay-Waveland Garden Club on Main Street
in Bay Saint Louis, MS

ANNUAL CEMETERY TOUR

Even though October is still several months away, it's not too early to begin thinking about and planning the Hancock County Historical Society Annual Cemetery Tour. It will be held on Halloween night, Thursday, October 31, 2013, at Cedar Rest Cemetery on Second Street. We will need volunteers to help prepare the cemetery for the tour (mark the path, etc.), to portray citizens buried there, to act as guides, and to serve at the Lobrano House.

A Brief History of the Bay-Waveland Garden Club

Submitted by
Tina Richardson,
First Vice President
Hancock County Historical
Society

According to the history of the Bay-Waveland Garden Club, the idea for the club emerged in the de Montluzin Drugstore during discussions of how the towns of Bay Saint Louis and Waveland could beautify and promote private and commercial gardens to attract people to the Mississippi Gulf

Coast. The Rotary Club was a "men only" organization at that time. Because they felt that flowers, beauty, and gardens were considered the domain of the "fairer sex," they persuaded their wives to organize a club for this purpose. The Rotary Club of Bay Saint Louis sponsored the Bay-Waveland Garden Club into the Mississippi State Garden Club.

On Tuesday, September 27, 1938, the Bay-Waveland Garden Club was organized at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Weston of Bay Saint Louis with Mrs. Leo Seal presiding. The following charter members were present: Mrs. Max Kohler, Mrs. Alice Buckley, Mrs. Harry Glover, Sr., Mrs. Edouard Carrere, Mrs. George Rea, Mrs. Minna Briggs, Mrs. Charles Moreau, Mrs. A. P. Smith,

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

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**HANCOCK COUNTY
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Telephone/Fax [228] 467-4090

Email address:hancockcountyhis@bellsouth.net**Website:**www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com
Marianne Pluim, Webmaster**LOBRANO HOUSE
HOURS**MONDAY — FRIDAY
10:00AM — 3:00PM
Closed: 12:00—1:00 (lunch)**MISSION STATEMENT**

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

Mrs. James A. Evans, Miss Louise Crawford, Miss May Edwards, Miss Elsa Spurl, Miss Hilda Spurl, Mrs. Walter Gex, Jr., Mrs. Eugene Mogabgab, Mrs. Gus Terry, and Miss Margaret Green.

The first officers of the club were president, Mrs. George Rea; vice president, Mrs. Alice Buckley; treasurer, Mrs. Leo Seal; and secretary, Mrs. Eugene Mogabgab. By-laws were drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Mississippi State Garden Club, a program committee began working on programs, and the meeting date was set for the second Tuesday of the month at 8:00 P. M. Since the Rotary Club had sponsored the organization, it was hoped that men would become members. For this reason the evening date seemed more appropriate to accommodate their schedules. However as men did not rush to join, the meetings were changed to Tuesday mornings.

The very first meeting was held at the Hotel Reed on October 18, 1938. Mrs. D. G. Rafferty of Pass Christian, Chairman of the Gulf Coast Council of Garden Clubs, spoke on organization to the forty-one members in attendance. Membership was set at ninety-nine, and the mission of the club was presented. "The OBJECTIVE of this club shall be the advancement of gardening, the development of home gardens, the furthering of City beautification and the preservation of native trees, shrubs, plants and birds." The motto adopted was "He who makes a garden works hand in hand with God." The club flower was designated as the wisteria, and the club colors were lavender and white. The club was federated in March 1939, thus becoming a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs of America.

Meetings continued to be

held at the Hotel Reed and other locations until April 1961 when the City of Bay Saint Louis granted the club custody of the old Taylor School on Leonhard Avenue. After Hurricane Camille in 1969, meetings were held at alternative locations, but they were still held. As reported by the first published Constitution and By-Laws in 1945, dues for that year were \$1.50 per annum; in 1950, they were \$3.00; and by 1987, they had risen to \$15.00. Currently, they are \$20.00. Additional funds to run the many ambitious programs have been garnered from hat shows, flea markets, bake sales, silent auctions, garage sales, antique shows, art shows, fashion shows, raffles, plant and flower shows, and contributions by friends and members of the Bay-Waveland Garden Club.

The club first participated in the annual Pilgrimage and Gulf Coast Historical Pageant on March 17 and 18, 1939. The home of Mrs. H. A. Singreen on Beach Boulevard in Waveland was open to the pilgrimage attendees with scenes of pirate gold and members in antebellum dress serving refreshments and breakfast to guests visiting the Pirate House. Participation in the Spring Pilgrimage continued with club members opening their homes and sharing hospitality with friends and visitors alike.

In addition to beautification efforts of a floral nature, the club was very active in civic affairs. In 1947 the Bay-Waveland Garden Club telephoned, "shoe-leathered," and "button-holed" the community on behalf of the Stock Law in Waveland and the Sea Wall legislation and tax in Bay Saint Louis. In 1955 it pushed for the ordinance prohibiting signs on telephone and telegraph poles. In 1964 it supported the three million dollar bond issue for the construction of sewer,

water, and gas lines in Bay Saint Louis. In 1965 the issue was traffic signals on Highway 90 at Nicholson Avenue in Waveland, and in 1984 the club supported the registration of historic trees for national preservation and preservation of the tree canopy.

From 1939 to 1987, the club won many prizes and honors for horticulture, publicity, scrapbooks, yearbooks, clean-up, and community improvements. In addition, the club organized and sponsored groups for youth and the elderly. These included the Youth Group, the Junior Hi Gardeners, the Merry Golds, the OLG Busy Bees and Lazy Daisies, the Sunshine Gardeners, the St. Joseph's Academy Red Birds, Garden Therapy, and the Senior Citizen's group. In addition the organization sponsored Girl Scout troop #27 which won the Gulf Pines Council Certificate in 1974 and 1988.

SOURCE:

The history of the first fifty years was compiled in August 1998 by Meg Hilliker, who was club historian at that time.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROJECT

By
Charles Gray

An ongoing endeavor at the Hancock County Historical Society is the creating of biographical sketches of Hancock County residents, past and present. This includes both summer residents and those who reside(d) year round.

These pages are based on a publication series created by Dunbar Roland, the first president of the Mississippi Historical Society. We are asking all members to help cre-

ate a mini-biography of friends, members of their families, and/or themselves.

Each entry should consist of a photograph (when possible), the full name and both the birth and death dates. In the interest of consistency, the following sequence is suggested:

Full Name

Date and place of birth

Name of parents and siblings

Education, schools,

Profession or work field

Hobbies, personal observations, etc.

Marriage: to whom, when, children

Death information including burial location.

The complete document should be one complete typed page. It will be helpful to provide slightly more than a page to allow room for editing. There should be a separate page for each person. We are including a reduced sample of Mrs. May Beyers as a guide. Please call the office for further information at 228 467-4090.

MARY CATHERINE (MAY) HOGAN BEYER



Mary Catherine (May) Hogan Beyer, daughter of Thomas James Hogan and Mary Margaret Clair was born May 21, 1902 in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was graduated from Sophie Wright High School in 1917 and McNally Business College in 1918. In 1928 she married Charles R. Beyer and they had two daughters: Elizabeth (Betty) Cullen Beyer and Margaret Marion Beyer.

Mrs. Beyer and her husband came to Bay Saint Louis in 1946 when he retired from the Navy.

With the philosophy of "One does not have to be rich to help people; one only needs the desire to do", Mae continued to be active in school, church and civic projects. She continued her Gray Lady program for the Navy Relief Society at the Veterans Administration in Gulfport.

In 1954 she helped to organize the Hancock County Heart Fund and worked 14 years for its growth. In 1964 she helped to organize Hancock County United Way, which funds 18 charity organizations. She worked for them for 20 years. From helping Arnette Giles of Pearlington, with 40 retarded and abandoned children in her home, May Beyer solicited expense money and from this beginning the Hancock County Retarded Children's association grew. Mrs. Beyer served on the board for 15 years.

In 1976 she was listed in Who's Who in American Women for her 25 years of charity service. In 1982 the Hancock Chamber of Commerce nominated her as "Outstanding Citizen of Hancock County," the first woman to receive this award.

Her friends and family say she was "involved in everything all the time." Her daughters say she was on the phone or typewriter with everybody who could or would get involved with charitable projects. She sent out 5,000 letters once a year for the United Way to raise funds. And even if the donations were only \$1, each person got a thank you note - another 5,000 or more letters.

She died Sept. 5, 1991, and is buried in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Bay St. Louis.

OAK TREE REGISTRATION

Registration of oak trees has resumed after its suspension because of Hurricane Katrina. The Bay/Waveland Garden Club has volunteered to "do the leg work," and the Historical Society will field the calls and pass the requests on to the Garden Club. If you have a tree or trees which you would like to register, please call the Historical Society at 228-467-4090.

NEW MEMBERS

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Randy Ellis,
Bay Saint Louis, MS

Tabitha Higdon
Woodstock, GA

The Nichols Family
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Biloxi, MS

Kathleen A. Redmann
New Orleans, LA

Isabelle Kergosien Weber
France

Brett Weidman
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Marsha Buras
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Sue Layel
228-224-2559
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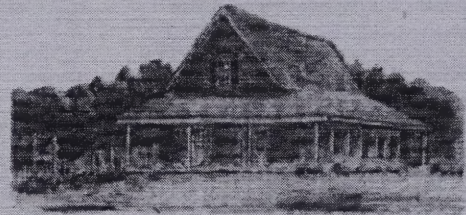
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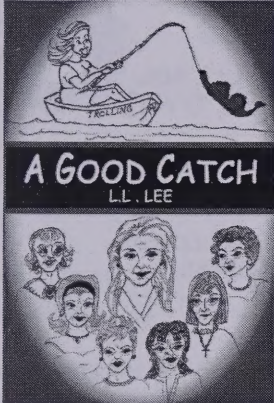
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